

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 8

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008

INTRODUCED BY

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FOR THE RADIOACTIVE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ALLOW FOR THE DISPOSAL OF GREATER-THAN-CLASS C LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE IN THE WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT.

WHEREAS, radioactive materials that qualify as greater-than-class C low-level radioactive waste have no identified path to disposal in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the nuclear regulatory commission and agreement states have generated and will continue to generate greater-than-class C low-level radioactive waste; and

WHEREAS, the federal Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1985 stipulates that the department of energy is responsible for ensuring the safe disposal of greater-than-

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1 class C low-level radioactive waste; and

2 WHEREAS, greater-than-class C low-level radioactive waste  
3 is similar in form and radioactivity content to transuranic  
4 waste that the department of energy is emplacing in the waste  
5 isolation pilot plant pursuant to the Waste Isolation Pilot  
6 Plant Land Withdrawal Amendment Act; and

7 WHEREAS, federal law requires that greater-than-class C  
8 low-level radioactive waste be disposed of in a geologic  
9 repository unless other approved methods are approved by the  
10 nuclear regulatory commission; and

11 WHEREAS, the department of energy has successfully managed  
12 the geologic disposal of over fifty thousand cubic meters of  
13 transuranic waste similar to greater-than-class C low-level  
14 radioactive waste at the waste isolation pilot plant; and

15 WHEREAS, the department of energy owns or generates  
16 certain low-level waste and transuranic waste with  
17 characteristics similar to greater-than-class C low-level  
18 radioactive waste that may also not have a disposal path; and

19 WHEREAS, the department of energy has safely operated the  
20 waste isolation pilot plant for nearly nine years with an  
21 undeniable safety record; and

22 WHEREAS, the total estimated volume of greater-than-class  
23 C low-level radioactive waste is small in comparison with the  
24 required disposal capacity of the waste isolation pilot plant;  
25 and

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